

PATHOLOGY OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM: A STUDENT'S INTRODUCTION. By J. Henry Biggart, C.B.E., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P. Third Edition. (Pp. ix + 368; figs. 239; pls. 22. 40s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1961.

WHEN this book was published first in 1936, one of the principal concepts was to keep a close relationship between the pathology of the central nervous system and general pathology. The success of this was immediate, and now the book has entered its third edition.

The layout is very similar to the earlier editions—the reaction to disease of the neurone, of the interstitial cells, and of the cerebrospinal fluid. Chapters then follow on various types of disease. In the light of the modern clinical approach to the pathology of arterial disease, it is important to have a clear picture of what is happening in the artery, whether it be the extracranial or intracranial. This is well catered for, while, in an age of modern transport, the chapter on the pathology of injuries to the brain and spinal cord is very essential.

Chapters on virus disease and disseminated sclerosis are included, and the author suggests the former may have to be enlarged in a future edition, while disseminated sclerosis and other demyelinating diseases are classified among the diseases of which the pathogeny still eludes us.

All branches of the pathology of the central nervous system are touched on, and there are two excellent chapters on tumors of the C.N.S.

There is a good index, and at the end of each chapter there is a list of reference of the main works which have been consulted.

No description of this book would be complete without reference to the illustrations which are not only plentiful and increased in numbers but, speaking as one who has referred to them for years, the essence of clarity.

H. H. S.

TEXTBOOK OF MEDICINE. Edited by Sir John Conybeare, K.B.E., M.C., D.M., F.R.C.P., and W. N. Mann, M.D., F.R.C.P. Thirteenth Edition. (Pp. xvi + 990; figs. 48; pls. 40. 45s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1961.

FOR more than thirty years this familiar textbook has played an important part in the teaching of internal medicine to undergraduates. Its popularity is largely due to the clear presentation and discursive style used by the authors and their commonsense approach to the theory and practice of clinical medicine. Consequently it is an interesting book to read, not just one for occasional reference. To keep pace with the times, expansion and extensive revision have been undertaken and, as a result, the thirteenth edition is 130 pages longer than its predecessor. Because of changes in the panel of contributors several sections of the new edition have been rewritten.

The family doctor will find much of interest in those parts of the text dealing with the clinical, pathological, biochemical, and radiological aspects of the subject, but he may consider that advice on management and details of treatment is neither sufficiently comprehensive nor, in places, up to date enough to be of much assistance to him. It is unfortunate that, in a textbook designed for the student and the house physician, the few misprints have to do with drugs and their dosage. In general, however, the standard of printing and illustration is high and the X-ray plates have been well chosen.

T. F.

HOME TREATMENT IN INJURY AND OSTEOARTHRITIS. By W. E. Tucker, C.V.O., M.B.E., T.D., M.A., M.B., F.R.C.S. (Pp. viii + 80; illustrated. 10s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1961.

THIS short monograph of seventy-eight pages advocates a principle which may well be the answer to many of the problems of the management of present-day chronic ailments. This principle is that simple home treatment can improve the condition of many patients with injury, and can improve or at least alleviate the condition of many arthritics. These are the patients who flood out-patient departments, attending over and over again; and often ringing the changes from one hospital to another. The author describes a system of treatment by